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1

hello. my name is pikeheart.

2

i died two moons ago.

3

killed by a fish... what a death for a riverclan cat.

4

well, i suppose i should tell you my story.

5

i was a mere seven moons...

6

RIVERCLAN , GREENLEAF

7

i was the youngest apprentice. my denmates still viewed me as a silly hairball.

8

but i wanted to be respected. i was headstrong.

9

i'd heard tales of fish bigger than the biggest warrior. pike. i was named after them.

10

i thought i could kill one. if i did, it could feed half the clan! i'd be a legend.

11

i snuck out of camp at dawn. my clanmates were still sleeping.

12

i hurried to the lakeside near the shadowclan border. i stood beneath a willow tree, eyes wide and eager.

13

i stood there for what felt like ages until i saw a flicker of movement.

14

i splashed down into the lake, but the underwater creature fled. i panicked and ran to the twoleg halfbridge, scampering off to crouch at the edge.

15

i pounced as the fish began to circle the wooden structure.

16

i was caught off guard by the pike's sheer size. it was *massive*.

17

thrashing in the murky lake water, i tore my claws along its side. its scales glittered as it spun around me.

18

it bit onto my hindquarters, dragging me down. it was too strong. no wonder these were never seen on the prey-pile.

19

but i ripped myself away. in a flurry of claws and bubbles, i sliced its gills over and over.

20

my lungs were burning as the fish spiraled away, blood clouding the water.

21

i felt as though i were on fire.

22

my vision was blurry and dotted with black. i turned my eyes to the surface and felt my stomach churn.

23

it was over three foxlengths from me.

24

i lashed and struck out with my paws, but i had become weak.
bubbles escaped my maw as i tried to scream.

25

water flooded my throat and lungs, making me gag. spasming in the murky depths of the lake, confused and in pain, i grew limp.

26

my gaze went black. my feelings slipped away. i floated upwards, my body sinking.

27

i awoke in a starry field in a state of serenity.

28

i was greeted by a tall, lithe gray-silver molly. she gazed at me with gentle green eyes.

29

"come, pikepaw," she glowed faintly, voice airy and ethereal, "if you'd like, we can visit your home one last time."

30

"im dead?" i murmured, dumbfounded. my throat hurt.

31

the she-cat dipped her head in silent confirmation, "my name is silverstar. im the former leader of riverclan."

32

i nodded numbly, then slowly stood. "yes... let's visit my clan." my tone shook.

33

silverstar walked beside me. blinking, we were suddenly in riverclan's camp. beetlestar was perched on smoothrock, all my clanmates sitting in a semi-circle around him.

34

"it can only be assumed that pikepaw drown in the lake." beetlestar's head drooped, "he was a brave apprentice during his living moons. he shall be renamed pikeheart, for his spirit that burns on in our hearts, even after death."

35

pikeheart.

36

after that, silverstar took me back to starclan.

37

i thanked her for showing me my name ceremony.

38

she bid me farewell, and we went our own ways.

39

i retreated to the marshes of starclan. somewhere reminiscent of my old home.

40

that's where my story ends.

goodbye, and may starclan light your path.

trivia

[image]

- credit for the idea of a riverclan cat dying while hunting a pike fish goes to detective-eli.

- pikeheart is a brown-gray spotted tabby tom with yellow eyes.

- yes, pike fish are huge. i'll add a picture to this chapter of one.

- this story takes place multiple years after alderheart and all his kin are dead.

- pikeheart is slightly reclusive in starclan since he doesn't know many cats.

- silverstar greeted pikeheart in starclan because none of his friends or kin had died at that point.